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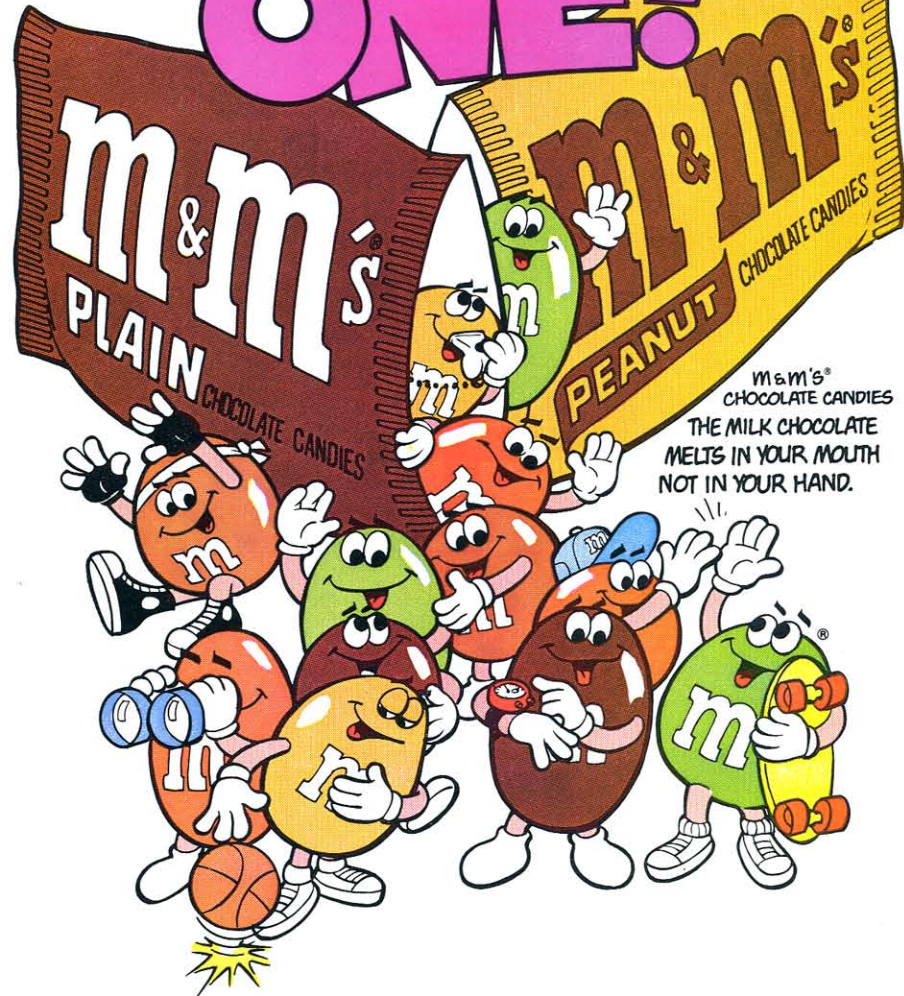
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BUT, IT CAN'T BE... HIM!!



AT LAST!
THE FACE
BENEATH THE MASK!

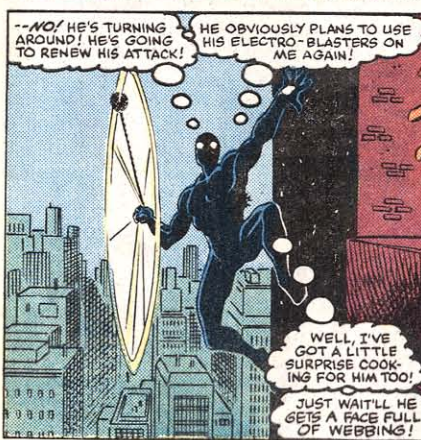
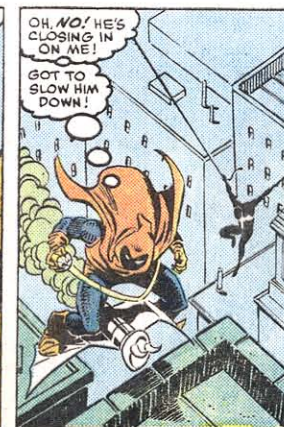
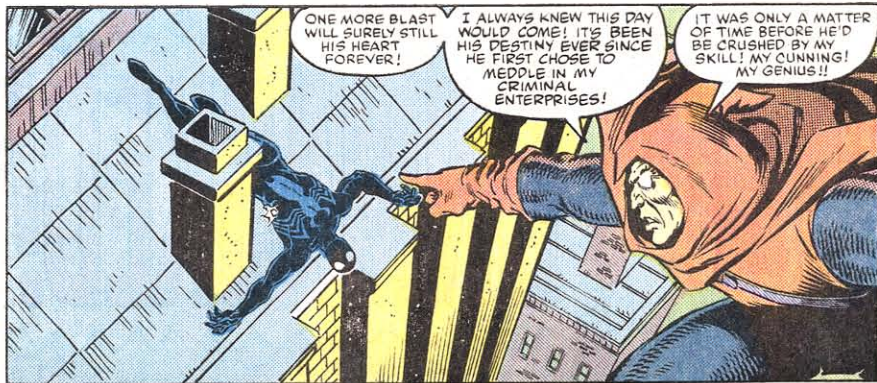
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FOR EVERYONE!

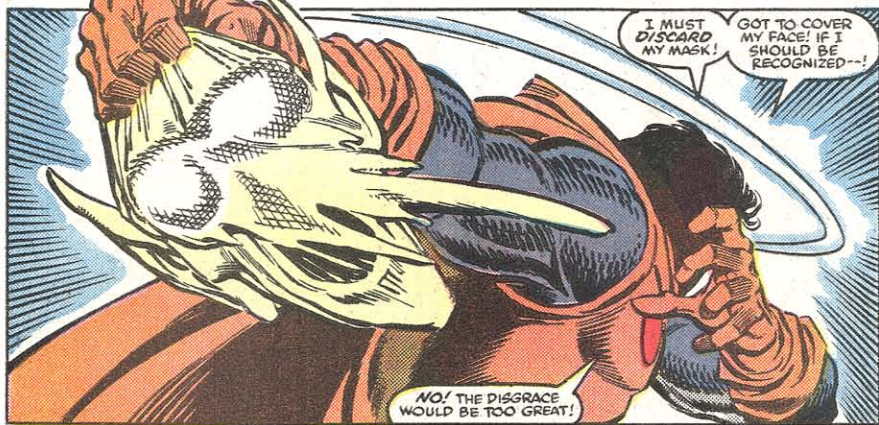


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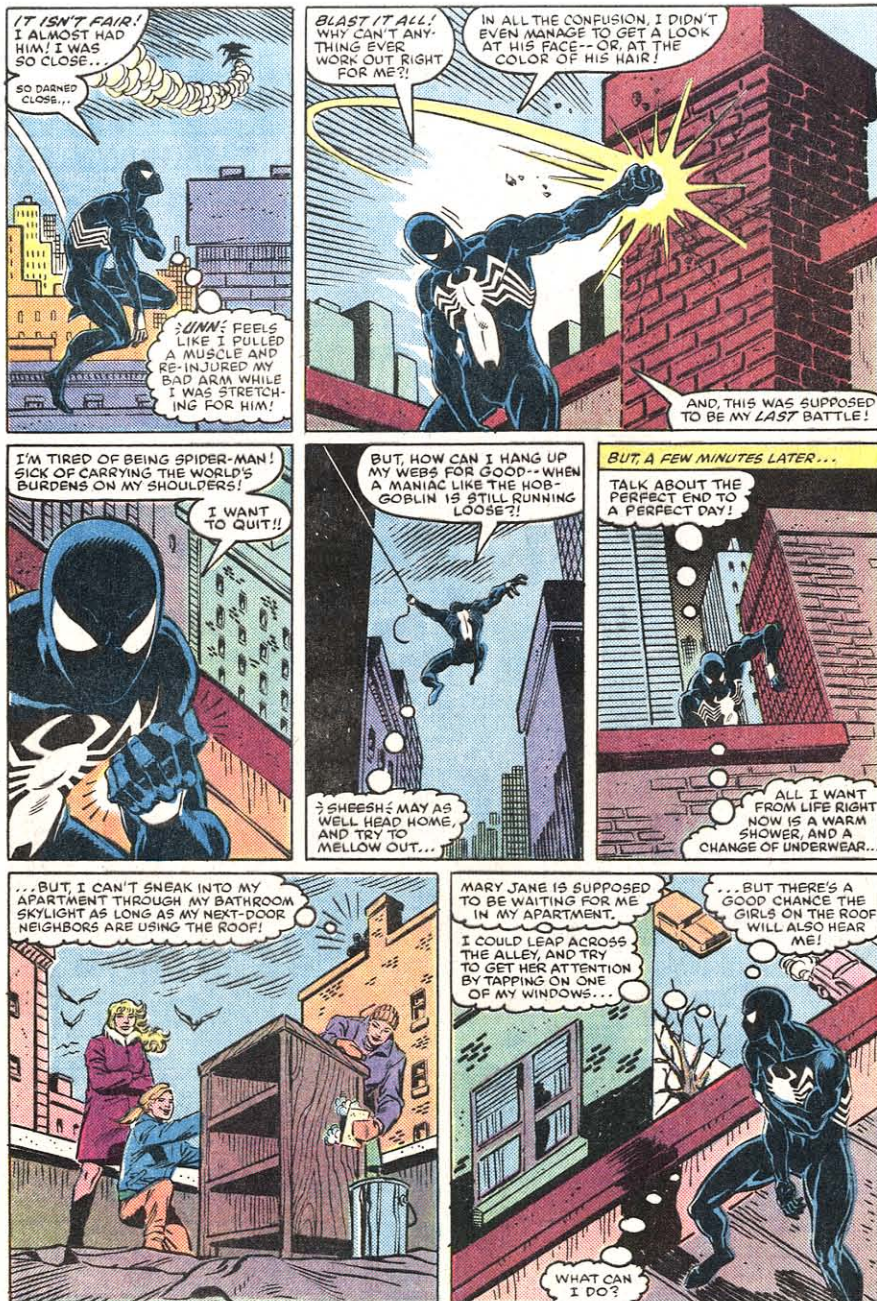
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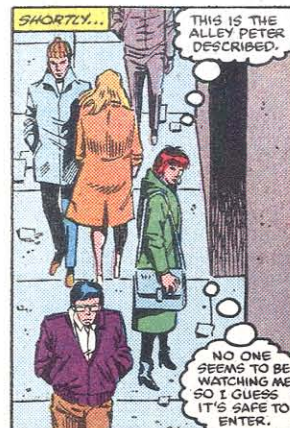
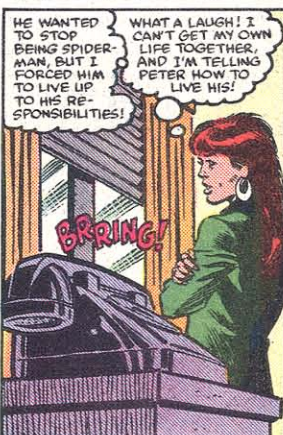
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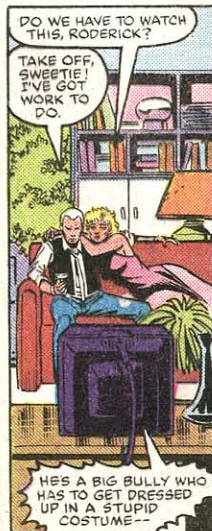
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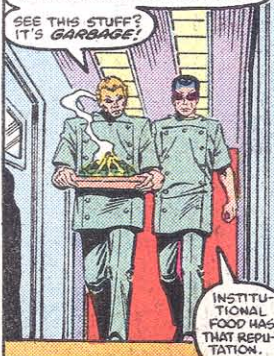


MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, AT THE SWAINSTEIN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER FOR THE CRIMINALLY MALADJUSTED...



YOU'RE NEW HERE, AIN'TCHA?

WELL, YOU'RE REALLY GONNA LOVE THIS PLACE! GOT A FULL COMPLIMENT OF LOONIES AND WEIRDOS, WE DO!



SEE THIS STUFF? IT'S GARBAGE!

INSTITUTIONAL FOOD HAS THAT REPUTATION.

NAH... I MEAN IT REALLY IS GARBAGE --POTATO PEELINGS, BANANA SKINS, ROTTED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES!

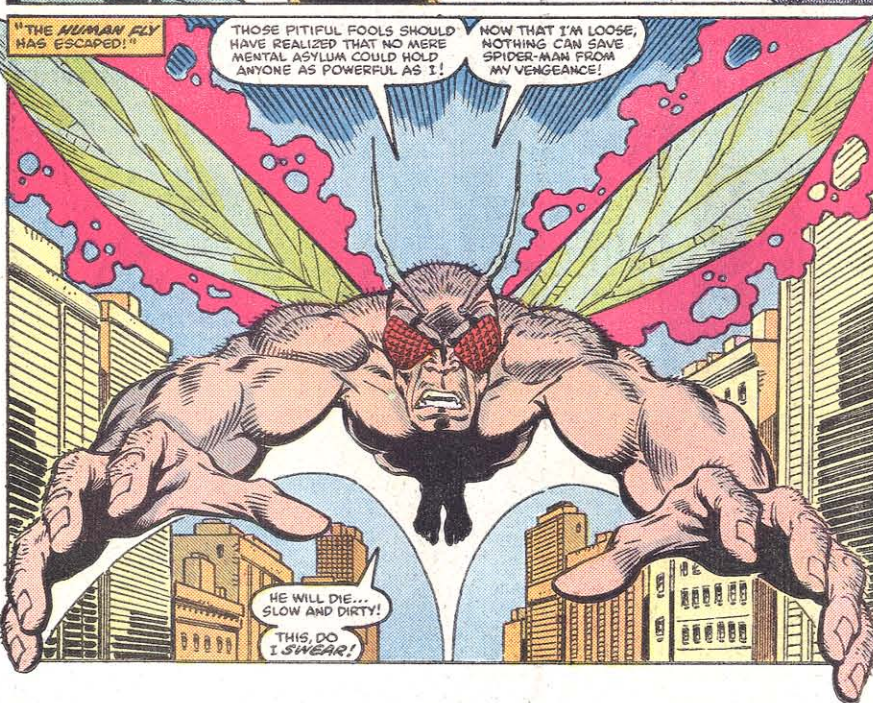


SOMEONE EATS THAT STUFF?!

YEAH, OUR STAR ATTRACTION! POP THE LOCK AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON--



OHMIGOSH! HE'S GONE--



"THE HUMAN FLY HAS ESCAPED!"

THOSE PITIFUL FOOLS SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT NO MERE MENTAL ASYLUM COULD HOLD ANYONE AS POWERFUL AS I!

NOW THAT I'M LOOSE, NOTHING CAN SAVE SPIDER-MAN FROM MY VENGEANCE!

HE WILL DIE... SLOW AND DIRTY!

THIS, DO I SWEAR!

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT DISCREET MOMENT...



ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR EVER-LOVING MIND?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING BACK OUT THERE AFTER THE HOBGOBLIN?



HE ALMOST *KILLED* YOU EARLIER TODAY!

GET OFF MY BACK, LADY!

THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO!



DON'T PLAY *MR. MACHO* WITH ME, PETER PARKER! YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE FINISHED AS SPIDER-MAN!

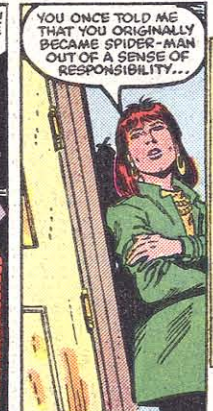
LEAVE THE HOBGOBLIN TO THE PROFESSIONALS --THE REAL SUPER HEROES LIKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE AVENGERS!

I CAN'T!



TOO MUCH HAS HAPPENED BETWEEN HOBGOBLIN AND ME!

THIS IS PERSONAL! I HAVE TO BE THE ONE WHO STOPS HIM!



YOU ONCE TOLD ME THAT YOU ORIGINALLY BECAME SPIDER-MAN OUT OF A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY...



WHAT ABOUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO YOURSELF?

WHEN DO YOU GET A CHANCE TO LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE?

YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?!



THE HOBGOBLIN IS *MY* PROBLEM! IF I WALK AWAY NOW, I'LL ALWAYS FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERY CRIME HE EVER COMMITTS--EVERY PERSON HE EVER HURTS!



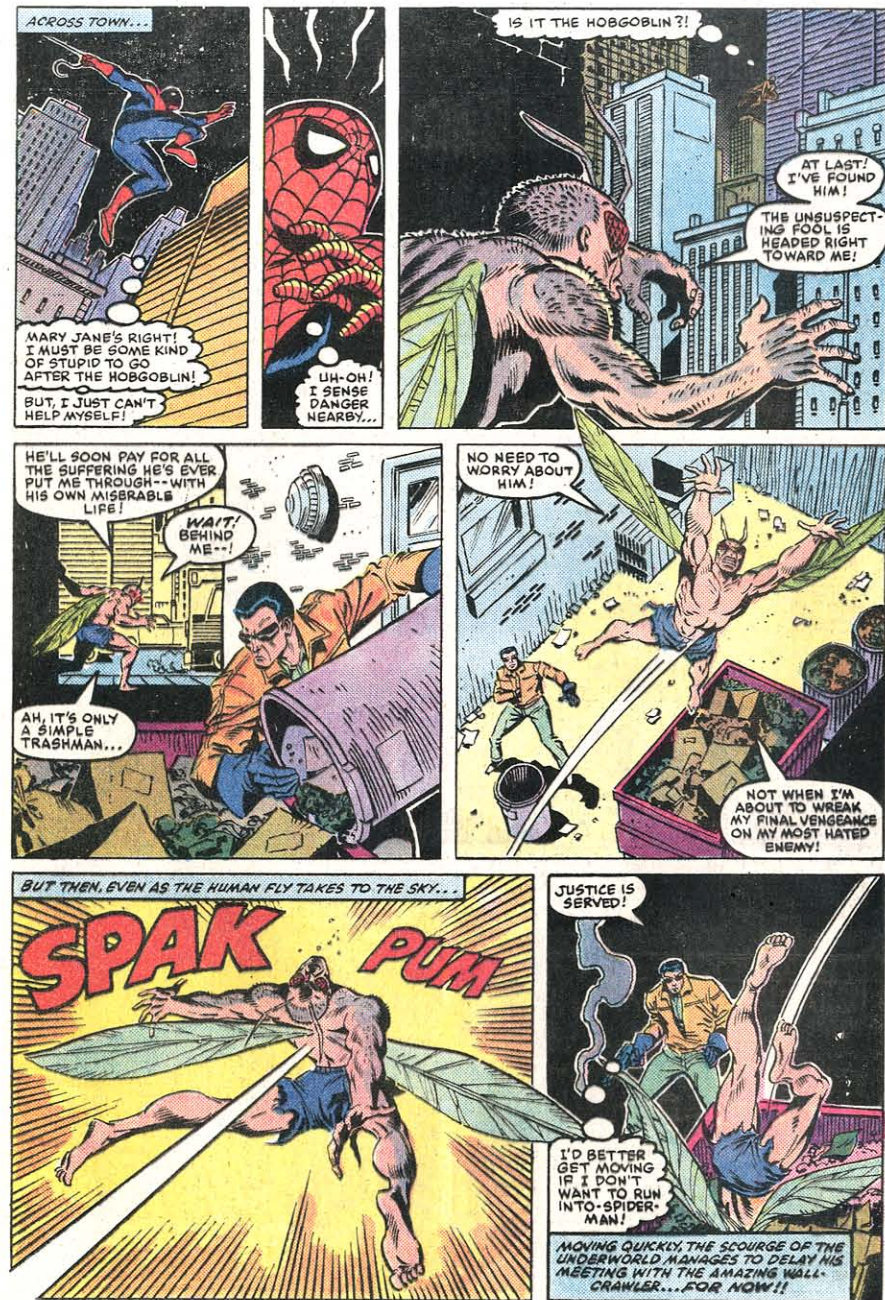
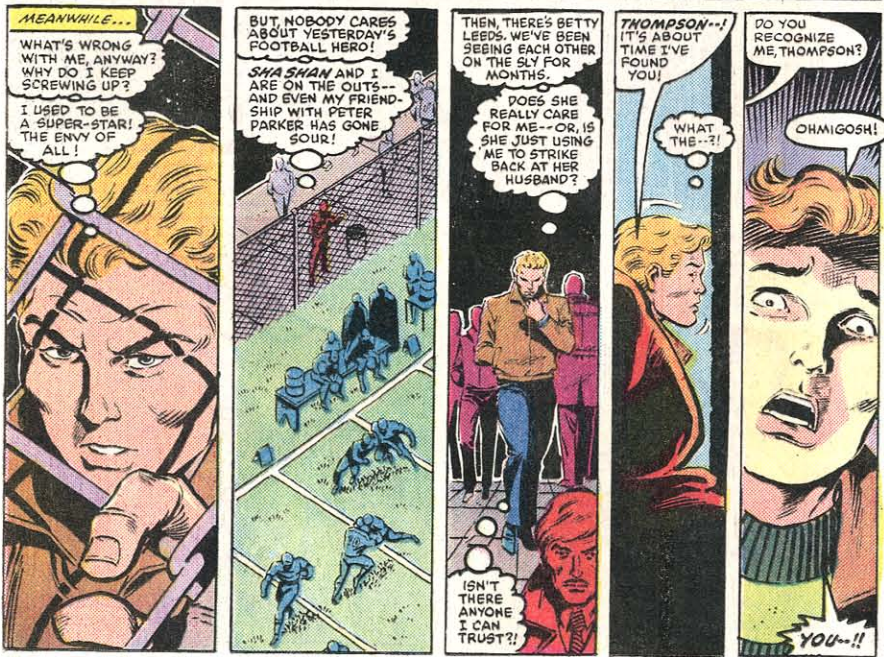
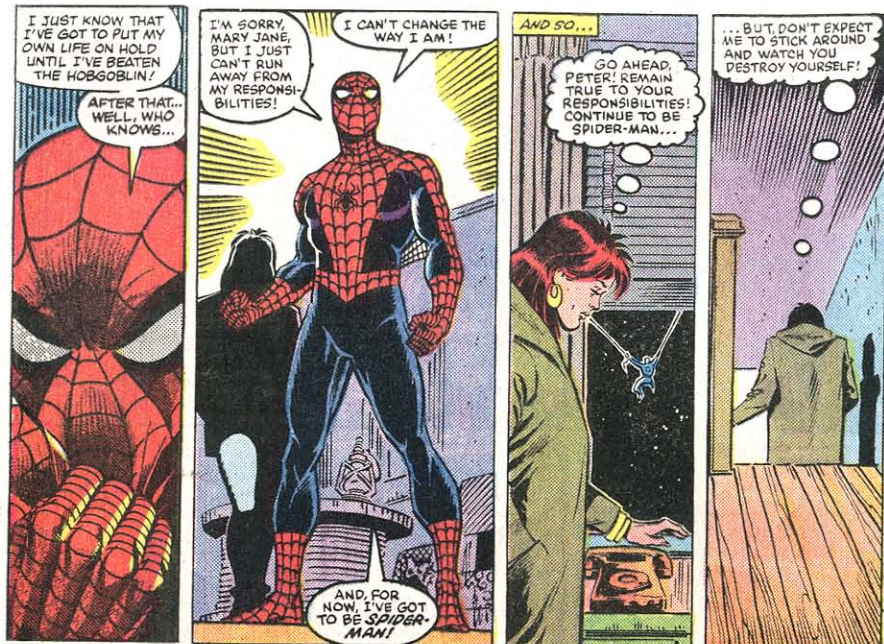
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THAT, MARY JANE. I CAN'T HAVE THAT HANGING OVER MY HEAD.

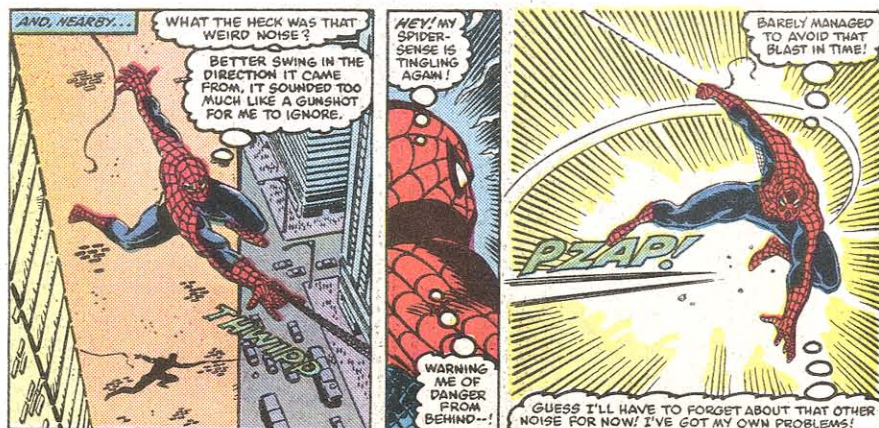


WHAT ABOUT AFTER THE HOBGOBLIN? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO THE NEXT TIME DOCTOR OCTOPUS OR THE CULTURE MENACES THE CITY?

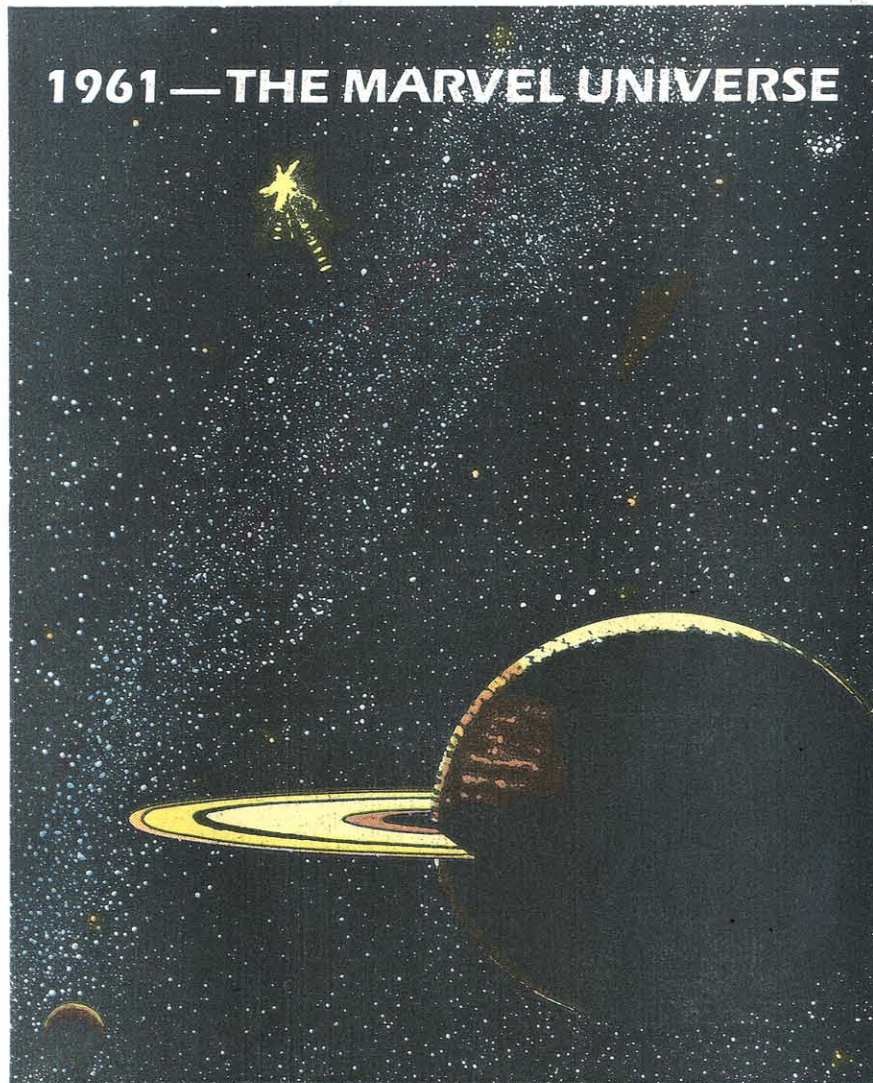
I...DON'T KNOW.

I CAN'T THINK THAT FAR AHEAD.



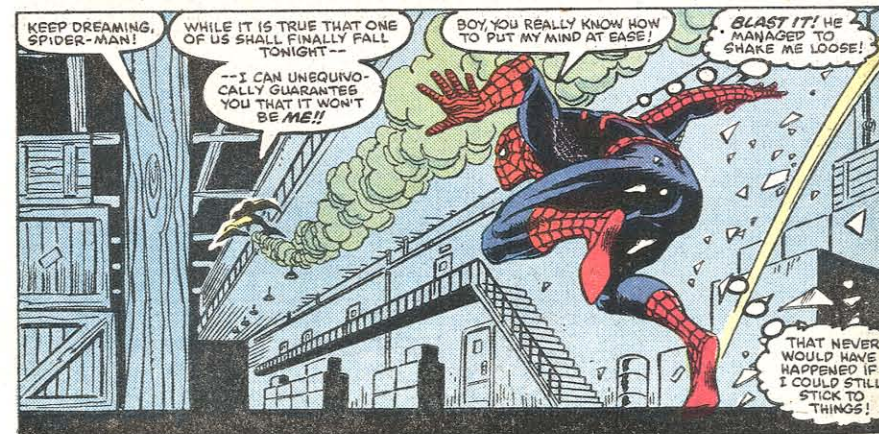
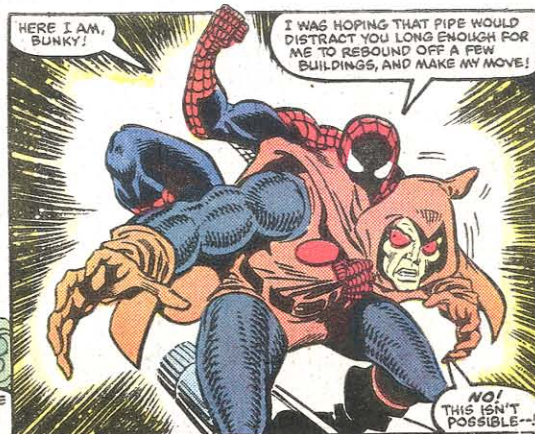
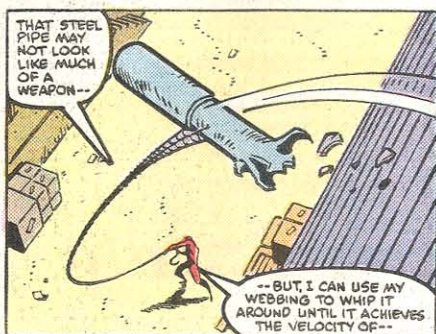


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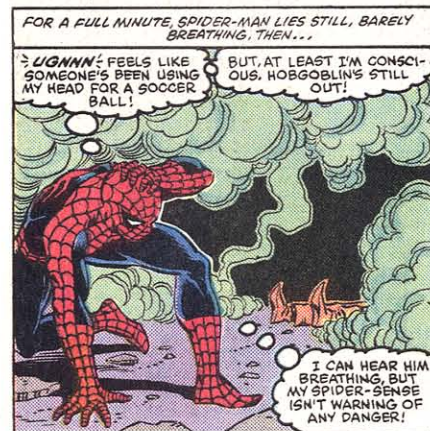
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

IT'S

1986!

MARVEL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Way back in August of 1961, when pop-sicles were six cents, Tossin' and Turnin' sides were the number one hit by Bobby Lewis was the number one hit single, and nobody had ever heard of Viet Nam, and Fantastic Four #1 appeared on the newsstands. That historic issue marked the beginning of the Marvel Universe, the launching of the Marvel Comics Group. We were one of the smallest comics companies then, but we took off like a starship and quickly grew into one of the biggies. Now, as we approach our twenty-fifth birthday, we're the largest comics publisher in the Western World—and we did it the old-fashioned way. We earned it.

All this year we'll be celebrating our anniversary with special issues and events

—watch the checklist for details—but the big event is coming up in the summer. And what is that? Drum roll, please...

IN HONOR OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CREATION OF
THE MARVEL UNIVERSE
WE ARE CREATING...
A NEW UNIVERSE!

It will be the comics event of the century. Yes, the century. Watch for it.

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #34**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #229**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #38**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #13**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #7**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #8**—Hyperion vs. ... Hyperion?!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #316**—Guest starring Hawkeye!
- ☐ **POWER PACK #21**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #19**—Baron Karza is back!
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #76**—By the Eye of Vishanti, 'tis a new creative team! Check it out!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #7**—Featuring the Sub-Mariner!
- ☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #275**—Special giant-size issue, featuring a rare reprint of Spider-Man's origin from *Amazing Fantasy #15*!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #5**—Re-telling the incredible events in issues #66-84!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #5**—Meet everyone from Gargoyles to Howard the Duck!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #33**—Guest starring Wolverine!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #319**—Introducing the Hulk Busters!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #266**—A special

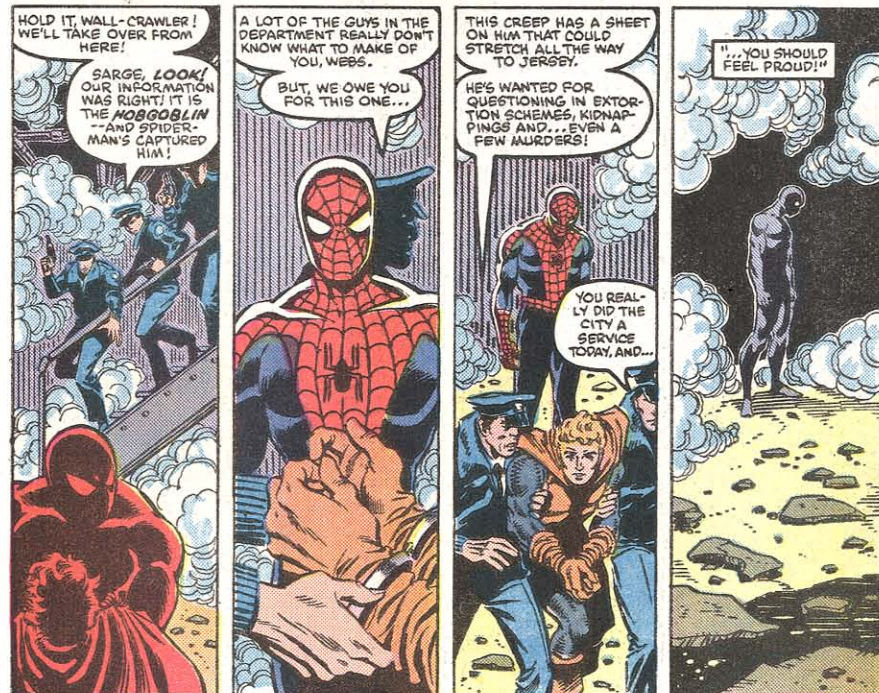
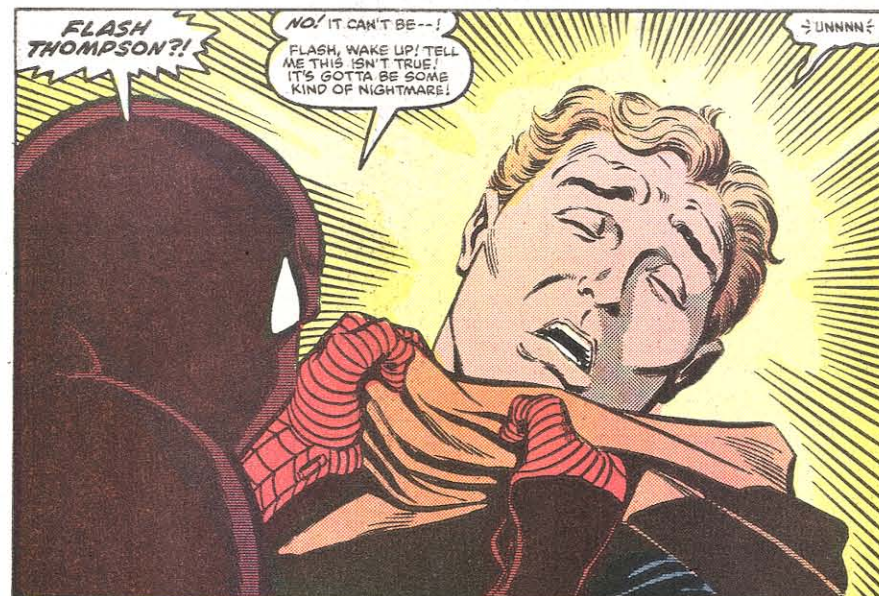
- epilogue to *Secret Wars II*, featuring the Silver Surfer!
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #181**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #186**
- ☐ **X-MEN #204**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #46**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **PUNISHER (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #5**—Including the origins of Loki and the Wizard (bad guys), and Angel and the Iceman (good guys)!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #289**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #205**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #113**
- ☐ **THOR #386**—Beware the wrath of the Thunder Frog!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #3**—There's a big change in store for the Beast!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #15**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX #3**—Meet the amazing Spider-Friends from issues #24-50!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #19**

- MARVEL MAGAZINES**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #37**—A special look at the 25th Anniversary of Marvel Comics!
- ☐ **SABRE SWORD OF CONAN #122**

- EPIC COMICS**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #14**
- ☐ **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #8**—The Queen is dead, and that's not all!

- ☐ **BOZZ CHRONICLES #2**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #23**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #9**—The quest begins!
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #12**—Welcome STROMAN and EMBERLIN, the Legion's new art team!
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **STARSTRUCK #6**
- STAR COMICS**
- ☐ **THUNDERCATS #3**—Beware Mumm-Ra!
- ☐ **MISTY (Limited Series) #3**—Special Christmas issue!
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #7**—Hey, look at that super-elastic kitty-cat!
- ☐ **TOP DOG #7**—Guest starring Royal Roy!
- ☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #7**—Who wants to be Junior Gorg's friend?
- ☐ **DROIDIS #1**—The stars of the "Star Wars" movies and Saturday morning TV are now starring in their own Star Comic! That's right, it's R2D2 and C3PO! Yay!

- GRAPHIC NOVEL**
- ☐ **GN #22: MARADA THE SHE-WOLF**—Direct from the pages of EPIC ILLUSTRATED and in color for the first time! Find out why people have been talking about this tale of enchantment and swordplay in the days of the Roman Empire! Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT, painted by JOHN SULTON.



LATER, AFTER OBTAINING THE NECESSARY WARRANTS, THE POLICE ARRIVE AT FLASH THOMPSON'S APARTMENT...

SEARCH EVERYTHING! WE'RE GONNA NEED SOME HARD EVIDENCE TO HELP NAIL THIS GUY!

START WITH THE BEDROOM CLOSET!

--THE THOMPSON KID IS DEFINITELY THE HOGGOBLIN!

ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

SPIDER-MAN REALLY HAD ME CONCERNED FOR A FEW MINUTES THERE... BUT EVERYTHING ACTUALLY FELL INTO PLACE!

YOU MUST BE PSYCHIC, CAPTAIN KEATING.

CHECK THIS OUT--!

CAN IT REALLY BE TRUE? IS FLASH GUILTY?!

I CAME HERE, HOPING THAT IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE --BUT, THE EVIDENCE SEEMS TO INDICATE OTHERWISE!

FRAMING THOMPSON WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS!

SERVES HIM RIGHT! IT WOULDN'T HAVE OCCURRED TO ME IF HE HADN'T OPENED HIS BIG MOUTH ON TELEVISION!

LOOKS LIKE WE HIT THE JACKPOT, BOYS!

EVEN D.A. TOWER HIMSELF WILL HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THIS LITTLE ARSENAL CLINCHES IT--

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I'VE KNOWN FLASH SINCE HIGH SCHOOL. I CAN'T DESERT HIM NOW!

AND, YET, WHY SHOULD I ATTEMPT TO HELP A MAN WHO'S BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME?!

...BUT I GUESS IT COULD ON HAVE HAPPENED TO A MORE DESERVING FELLOW!

CLUCK

...AND THAT SHOULD KEEP THE HEAT OFF ME FOR AWHILE!

IT'S A REAL SHAME THAT THOMPSON WILL HAVE TO TAKE A FALL...

THE END... FOR NOW!



THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
ADAM BLAUSTEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

Call me Blaustein. I'm assistant editor to Jim Owsley, and I've got a beef with some of you out there.

One of the thousand things my boss has me do around here is sorting through the tons of mail we receive. A lot of this incoming mail regards the secret identity of a certain nefarious ne'er-do-well named Hogobolin! To make my job just a bit easier, and to clear up any confusion, here is a list of various readers' guesses concerning Hogobolin's alter ego. NONE OF THEM ARE CORRECT.

Liz Osborn (or, Harry, for that matter).
Gwen Stacy's clone
Captain Stacy's clone (Gwen's father)
Peter Parker's clone
Nathan Lubensky
Howard Mackie
Ernie Popchik
John Jameson
John Jameson's clone
The son of John Jameson's clone & Gwen Stacy's clone
Aunt May
Wolverine

I repeat, NONE OF THESE GUESSES ARE CORRECT. As for who the Hogobolin truly is, all I can say is the clues are here. And there. And everywhere, you figure it out.

Have a party, Adam Blaustein

Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Please include your name and address. We will, however, withhold them upon request.

Dear Web-Spinners,
WOW! INCREDIBLE! WHAT A TREAT! I LOVED IT! I've never seen such a fantastic issue. You guys outdid yourselves on this one! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274 was terrific! The best penciling I've seen in years! The best script, the best color, best lettering. I hope you keep it up for a long time!

Bringing back all those lost souls to haunt Spidey was sheer genius! The manifestation of the power of vengeance (or is it "Vengeance") was truly amazing! I even began to get lost in the magazine; it became my reality for a few short moments. I hope we can do it again some time!

Now, on to the questions. Who is the Hogobolin, and where has he been? Do super-villains go on vacation, and if so, where? And which costume will Spidey wear next issue? And will Pete and Mary Jane get more serious in their relationship?

Well, now that I have made my questions public, I'd also like to thank the gang for giving me such enjoyment each month! And till the Silver Surfer joins a motorcycle gang, MAKE MINE MARVEL!!!

Brian Palmateer
15876 Donald Rd.
Capac, MI 48014

Dear ASM,
Well, I figure it's about time I got into the guess-who-the-Hogobolin-is game. To start, let's evaluate what we know about him. He is a caucasian male. He has a fairly sophisticated speech pattern, indicating education. He must be fairly well-known in the New York criminal underworld. Remember, the petty crook who found Osborn's sewer hideout went to get him. He said, "Yeah, I figured a dude like you'd be interested!" He probably has a fair degree of wealth, seeing as how he can afford all the sophisticated and doubtless expensive equipment and weaponry he uses.

Considering all this eliminates most of the more popular guesses, Lance Bannon, J. Jonah Jameson, and Steve Ditko. Well, maybe Steve Ditko. Anyhow, this leaves two men. One, Merdell Stromm, fits more perfectly than my other guess, except for one thing. He's bald, and the Hogobolin has a full head of hair. Therefore, it can only be one man, much as I dislike it. Envelope, please. Yes, the Hogobolin is ... ANOTHER CLONE OF PROF. WARREN! Well? Am I right or am I right? Till Stan Lee shaves his mustache, make mine Marvel!!!!!!

David Metz
2952 N. Stowell Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Wrong.

Dear Jim, Keith, and Tom,
I don't see what's wrong with Peter keeping the gold notebook. I've noticed that a lot of people are against his keeping the object in question and I think that those people are completely heartless. Good ol' Pete has been through the ringer many times trying to get pictures to pay for his money problems such as paying rent, and helping his Aunt May. Let's face it, living in New York City can't be cheap; the cost of food, clothing, and utilities are always on the uprise. Plus Peter's gotta have money to take Mary Jane and others out. I say he should keep it and invest it--slowly, of course. Peter could start up some sort of company that could help him in times of need and also help his Aunt May and her financial problems.

Got it? Good!

I hope you guys don't do anything cheap like have the pad stolen or something similar. Let's face it, you said this would change his life. To have it taken from him or have him lose it in any way is to have made it a big waste of time. The idea was good so do something positive for Spider-Man, OK? OK!

Mike Moscoso
5519 Beaconsfield
Burke, VA 22015

Dear Web-Heads,
I have just recently finished issue #274. Before I comment on the story, I would like to say a few words concerning the letters page. After reading all of those letters from longtime Marvel fans praising Spidey, I realized just how much I love Marvel comics. A character like Spider-Man, who has been around as long as Marvel has, constantly needs new ideas to keep its readers interested. The creative team of Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz keeps a steady flow of excellent story and art of such quality to make the Amazing Spider-Man my favorite title. Thank you, gentlemen.

Now let's get on with issue #274. Should I buy sixty or seventy copies? I love Spidey's role in SECRET WARS II. Once more the fate of the universe lies within Peter Parker, and once again, he proves himself worthy of that responsibility. While Spidey suffers unspeakable torture from Zarathos, the Beyonder ponders whether the universe is worthy of its existence. But, once again, Spidey showed his superiority over a foe so powerful that one would think someone like Thor would be a worthy opponent. This makes me wonder why Captain America, who has no superhuman powers, gets more recognition than Spider-Man. Villains like Firelord and Zarathos could wipe the floor with Cap. I know it's futile to request that Spidey be given more credit, but I might as well try. Nevertheless, I am one of Spidey's biggest fans, and I plan to stay that way. I've written several times to various titles, but never have I had a letter printed. So, if you see it in your hearts to print this, I would be eternally grateful. So, until Aunt May gets a mohawk, Make Mine Marvel.

Chris Thomas
3119 Roy Pom Dr.
Louisville, KY 40220

Dear Owz,
In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #272's "The Spider's Web" column you told Jake Loomis that the reason everyone's clothes did not turn to gold was that they all had had the good taste to wear natural fibers which are organic. That suggestion! However... two of the things I was taught in science are:

- 1) Trees are organic, and
 - 2) Trees are ground up and mixed with glue to make paper. Ah... oh... if that's true, then we have another problem. Specifically, that the gold notebook that Spidey found (made primarily of organic paper) could not have turned to gold, except of course, the spiral binding (be it metal or plastic), the glue (if it were not made of organic animal's horns and hooves) and the ink.
- I, on the other hand, was always aware that the notebook was made of an experimental chemical film, designed to replace paper and preserve our beautiful trees and had only accidentally been knocked into the wastebasket.

So... how 'bout it, Owz, do I get the coveted No-Prize?

Chris Davidson
23 Marner St.
St. Catharines, ON
L2P-2J7

Yep.

Dear Spider-Team,
I have read THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and its counterparts for many years now. I feel that Spider-Man is one of the best things to come to Marvel Comics, and it improves as the years go by. I liked issue 274's format very much, especially for the cover/poster, but when I read what was in store for us in issue 275, I got really excited. Please do more cover/poster issues in future months. Also, in my local newspaper I read that next year, around Christmas, there was going to be a Spider-Man movie. Could you please tell me, will the movie have real actors or animated and what costume will he wear?

Geoffrey Hill Jr.
Milltown, NJ 08850

As soon as we know anything, Geoffrey, we'll tell you and all the rest of our readers in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

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